

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 /143 W

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R 201435Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS BEIRUT 11159

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS SY JO XF

SUBJECT: BEIRUT PRESS REACTION TO JORDANIAN AMNESTY

REF: AMMAN 5017

1. KING HUSSEIN'S AMNESTY ANNOUNCEMENT DOMINATED BEIRUT PRESS SEPT 19 AND 20. FEDAYEEN PROPAGANDA ORGANS SO FAR MAINTAINING SULLEN SILENCE, EXCEPT FOR BRIEF SEPT 18 PLO NEWS AGENCY (Wafa) RELEASE STATING HUSSEIN "WILL NOT DECEIVE US; IMPORTANT MATTER IS NOT SMALL PRISON WHERE OUR STRUGGLERS SPENT YEARS AND YEARS, BUT THE BIGGER PRISON SURROUNDING OUR PEOPLE IN JORDAN. . . . NOTHING HAS CHANGED IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE REPRESSIVE REGIME IN AMMAN." COMMUNIST AN NIDA CARRIED LATER (SEPT 19) Wafa RELEASE FROM DAMASCUS WHICH GRUMPED THAT WHILE HASHEMITE REGIME IS TRYING "FALSIFY FACTS OF ITS SUPPRESSIVE NATURE" AND BOASTING OF "ALLEGED AMNESTY," WIDESPREAD REPRESSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST EAST BANK CITIZENS UNCLASSIFIED

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ALLEGED TO HAVE FEDAYEEN CONNECTIONS CONTINUES IN JORDAN.

2. PRO-FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR CAUTIOUSLY WELCOMED AMNESTY. ALTHOUGH NOTING "THIS LEAST JORDANIAN REGIME CAN DO" AFTER ITS FRUITLESS ATTEMPT AT SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL. MUHARRIR EXPRESSED HOPE GOJ "WILL NEXT SET PALESTINIAN CAUSE FREE," AS FREEING INDIVIDUALS WHILE RESTRICTING THEIR CAUSE IS OF LITTLE VALUE. ON OTHER HAND, INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR OBSERVED HUSSEIN HAS REGAINED MUCH ARAB SYMPATHY WHILE NOT ENDANGERING HIS OWN POSITION THROUGH MORE MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONS. PAPER SUGGESTED FEDAYEEN YARMOUK BRIGADE LIKELY TO DISSOLVE AS ITS MEMBERS NOW FREE TO RETURN TO FAMILIES IN JORDAN.

3. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND BAGHDAD RADIO AND RECENTLY CHASTISED "VOICE OF PALESTINE" IN CAIRO HAVE NOT MENTIONED JORDANIAN AMNESTY, DAMASCUS RADIO AND PRESS HAVE BEEN GIVING IT HIGHLY FAVORABLE PLAY. SARG MEDIA UNDOUBTEDLY TAKING CUE FROM PRES ASSAD, WHO TOLD NAHAR INTERVIEWER SEPT 19 THAT GOJ AMNESTY WAS "WELCOME DECISION THAT WILL EASE SUFFERING AMONG OUR COMBATANT BROTHERS".

4. ALL BEIRUT PAPERS LINK AMNESTY WITH SARG CRACKDOWN ON "VOICE OF PALESTINE" AND INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON FEDAYEEN IN SYRIA. FRENCH-LANGUAGE L'ORIENT-LE JOUR OBSERVED JORDANIAN JAILS ARE OPENING AT TIME WHEN SYRIAN JAILS ARE BEGINNING TO "WELCOME" RECALCITRANT FEDAYEEN. WEEKLY AS SAYYAD (SEPT 19) CLAIMS SARG WILL RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GOJ FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENT OF "THREE FEDAYEEN BASES" IN JORDAN.
HOUGHTON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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